

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 01797 211122 Z

16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 EB-11 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /155 W

----- 002086

R 211100 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8802

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1797

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MO FR

SUBJECT: GOM PRIME MINISTER OSMAN INTERVIEW

1. PRO- GOVERNMENT DAILY " MAROC SOIR" OF APRIL 20 PUBLISHES INTERVIEW GRANTED BY PRIME MINISTER OSMAN TO SYMPATHETIC FRENCH JOURNALIST PIERRE CORVAL, WHO IS EDITOR OF FRENCH PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER " LE MAINE LIBRE." EXCERPTS OF INTEREST FOLLOW.

2. OSMAN SAID THAT IN RECENT MONTHS, " TO BE PRECISE SINCE JULY 31, 1972," (DATE OF UNFP SPLIT), UNFP/ RABAT UNDER ABDERRAHIM BOUABID HAD ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE DRAWN MORE AND MORE INTO ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. BOUABID WAS WEIGHED DOWN WITH A " SHIRT OF NESSUS" (I. E., RADICAL UNFP/ RABAT MEMBERSHIP) WHICH HE COULD NOT GET RID OF . UNFP/ RABAT HAD THEREFORE BEEN " PROVISIONALLY" SUSPENDED. SUBVERSION HAD BEEN SILENCED, BUT LEGAL OPPOSITION STILL PERMITTED.

3. ASKED ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF ELECTIONS, OSMAN REFERRED TO PAST HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PALACE AND OPPOSITION. KING HAD CONTACTED OPPOSITION LEADERS AFTER AUGUST 16 TO OBLIGE THEM TO FACE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 01797 211122 Z

ISTIQLAL HAD AT FIRST AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT OF " BROAD NATIONAL UNION" WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING FOR HONEST ELECTIONS, BUT HAD BACKED OUT AT LAST MINUTE. OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE IN NO HURRY TO HAVE ELECTIONS NOW," AND INDEED ELECTIONS TODAY WOULD SEEM TO BE UNNECESSARY LUXURY." FIRST PRIORITY IS TO RESTORE HEALTHY, NORMAL POLITICAL CLIMATE. " THERE IS MORE URGENT WORK THAN THE ELECTION OF DEPUTIES." PRESENT CABINET OF NON- POLITICANS COULD PREPARE ELECTIONS IF BROADENED, BUT THIS IS NOT FIRST PRIORITY. FOR EXAMPLE, FIVE YEAR PLAN IS MORE URGENT.

4. PRIME MINISTER NEXT TURNED TO FRANCO- MOROCCAN RELATIONS. THERE HAD BEEN " CLOUDS" BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES DUE TO SEVERAL CAUSES: MOROCCANIZATION, GOM' S EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS, EXPROPRIATION OF FRENCH OWNED LAND, THE COMMERCIAL DISPUTE, TEACHERS, ETC. OSMAN " DEPLORED" POOR QUALITY OF FRENCH TEACHERS, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR CONDUCT IN MOROCCO WHICH WAS " UNSUITED TO THEIR FUNCTIONS." ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WAS PRESENCE OF MOROCCAN " SUBVERSIVES" IN FRANCE, WHERE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS WITH IMPUNITY. HE CONCLUDED SAYING MOROCCO AND FRANCE WERE " CONDEMNED TO REMAIN FRIENDS."

5. COMMENT: OSMAN' S REMARKS CONTAIN NOTHING NEW OR STARTLING. UNFP/ RABAT LEADER BOUABID IS ABSOLVED OF DIRECT COMPLICITY IN THE LIBYAN- BACKED SUBVERSION. ALTHOUGH OSMAN REFERS TO KING' S NOVEMBER 1972 PROMISE TO PREPARE " HONEST" ELECTIONS, HE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT " BROADENED" GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY TO CARRYOUT ELECTIONS. AS THIS OBVIOUSLY DEPENDENT ON WILLINGNESS OF OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATE, POSSIBILITY OF EARLY ELECTIONS BECOMES EVEN MORE REMOTE. FRANK ADMISSION THAT FRANCO- MOROCCAN RELATIONS TROUBLED IS ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE , AS IS STRONG LANGUAGE OSMAN USES TO EXPRESS GOM DISSATISFACTION WITH FRENCH TEACHERS. OSMAN' S REMARKS ON MOROCCAN OPPOSITION IN FRANCE INDICATON THAT ITS ACTIVITIES ARE SOURCE OF REAL ANNOYANCE TO KING. ROCKWELL

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT01797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730447/aaaaisqt.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980126
Subject: GOM PRIME MINISTER OSMAN INTERVIEW
TAGS: PINT
To: AF
ALGIERS
MADRID
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
TUNIS
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005